GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
INDO- PAK COOPERATION IN SHIPPING SECTOR
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently approved a revised shipping protocol with Pakistan to give a fillip to trade between the two nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which trade is likely to increase from the said arrangement; and

(d) the time by which the said protocol is likely to be signed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

a) Yes.

b) The Shipping Protocol with Pakistan was signed in 1975. The revised Protocol would permit lifting of cargo originating from India and Pakistan and bound for each other's ports by third country vessels. It will also enable Indian and Pakistani vessels to lift cargo destined for third countries.

c) The revised Protocol is expected to enhance tonnage under both flags and will have a beneficial impact on freight rates. This in turn is expected to have a positive impact on bilateral trade.

d) During the Foreign Secretaries' talks on 14-15 November 2006 in New Delhi, both sides agreed on the early signing of the revised Protocol.